



The Old Ironsides Report

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1AD Cleans Up Markets, Helps Deter Crime

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1AD PAO**

BAGHDAD, Iraq – When 1st Armored Division's brigade combat teams task their battalions to help keep order throughout Baghdad, the battalions also assume the responsibility of helping the area improve.

The best method a commander can use to assess the needs of a neighborhood is to see the situation himself.

After identifying some concerns of the neighborhood advisory councils in his area of operation, Lt. Col. Garry Bishop, 1st Battalion, 37th Armored Regiment commander, hit the streets in the Ad Hamiyah district in northern Baghdad Aug. 5 to visit a number of markets in the Sha-ab and Al Mhadi neighborhoods.

The objective of the tour was to notify the vendors that they must move their booths back to the designated market areas.

"Since the fall of (Saddam's) regime, the vendors have moved out to the streets," Bishop said. "When these places are in high swing, you can't even walk, let alone drive."

Some of the tradesmen argued that keeping their booths on the sidewalks and streets is the only way to maintain business.

One vendor said consumers won't park and go in to a market for fear of their cars being stolen.

But Bishop responded that street markets were illegal before the Coalition arrived in Baghdad and they are still illegal.

After negotiating with vendors, Bishop gave them six days to move their goods back in to the marketplaces.

Failure to comply, he said, could result in the confiscation of the vendors' merchandise; though that is the last thing he wanted to do.

"We talked to the local sheiks," Bishop continued. "They were complaining about the traffic flow through these areas. We had to do something clean the area up."

Of the four markets that Bishop's team assessed: two were overrun by illegal vendors; one was out of space, forcing vendors to set up on the sidewalks; and the fourth just didn't exist.

Immediately following his assessment tour, Bishop arranged for a contractor to build a market at the fourth location, understanding that people can't move if there is no where to go.

Additionally, Bishop's plans included cleaning up the garbage-laden streets once they were cleared of consumer traffic.

Bishop went on to say that giving more organization to the markets will help deter crime, which is a problem in the region.

"In the (Ad Hamiyah district) there are 450,000 people and only one police station," Bishop said. "There are a lot of thugs trying to make a living ... trading weapons on the black market."

However, he said crime isn't as rampant as when he arrived in Baghdad.



Lt. Col. Garry Bishop, 1st Battalion, 37th Armored Regiment commander, moves past a fruit stand after assessing the condition of a market in the Ad Hamiyah district of Baghdad, Iraq. The vendors moved out of the market and began setting up on the streets shortly after the Coalition arrival to Baghdad.

Regarding the fear that some citizens may have about the security of their vehicles, Bishop's plans include building fenced parking lots and posting Iraqi security guards at some of the locations.

Though this won't eliminate crime, it will help reduce it, he said.

Bishop attributes a lot of the crime to the area being one of the poorest in Baghdad.

"Things have really calmed down around here," Bishop said. "We're moving beyond the door kicking stage. Why kick in a door when you can just knock?"

A Smart Tip From 1AD Safety

SAFETY COUNTERMEASURES

- PROACTIVE INTEGRATION OF RISK MANAGEMENT INTO CHANGING OPERATIONS
- PERFORM OPERATIONS TO STANDARDS--NO SHORT CUTS
- ENFORCE ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES
- REPORT HAZARDS AND BRIEF SOLDIERS
- USE THE BUDDY SYSTEM TO TAKE CARE OF EACH OTHER

NEWS

Israeli Warplanes Blast Hezbollah Areas

JERUSALEM (AP) - Israeli warplanes bombed suspected Hezbollah positions in southern Lebanon on Sunday hours after the militant group shelled northern Israel, killing a teenage boy. It was Israel's first civilian death from a shelling along the northern border since Israel pulled out of southern Lebanon in May 2000.

Protests Over Power Cuts Erupt in Basra

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - Scattered protests over fuel shortages and power cuts caused by intense heat erupted in the southern city of Basra for a second day Sunday, and an American soldier died of heatstroke as temperatures crept higher than 120. Also Sunday, attacks on U.S. forces in Baghdad and Saddam Hussein's hometown of Tikrit wounded four American soldiers, and another American soldier died in his bed, the military said. A journalist for an Arab satellite station also was reported wounded.

Indian PM Wants End to Bloodshed

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) - India's prime minister called for an end to bloodshed between Pakistan and India in a statement read Sunday before a peace conference in the Pakistani capital, saying the two nations must heed the will of their peoples and learn to live side by side. "Violence and bloodshed cannot provide any solutions. We can live together only if we let each other live," Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee said in the statement, read aloud by an Indian delegate at the conference. "Cooperation, rather than confrontation, is the answer to our common problems."

Pope Urges Prayers for Rain in Europe

CASTEL GANDOLFO, Italy (AP) - Pope John Paul II urged people to pray for rain Sunday to ease Europe's seemingly relentless heat wave and expressed worry about the wildfires devouring much of the continent's woodlands. "Vast fires have developed in these days in several nations in Europe, with particular intensity in Portugal, sparking deaths and enormous danger to the environment," the pope told a crowd of pilgrims and tourists in the courtyard of his summer residence in the hills outside of Rome.

Gregory Hines Dies of Cancer at 57

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Tony Award winner Gregory Hines, the tap-dancing actor who started on Broadway and in movies including "White Nights" and "Running Scared," has died, his publicist says. He was 57. Hines died Saturday in Los Angeles of cancer, publicist Allen Eichorn said.

SPORTS

Taylor Slams As Reds Defeat Padres 9-5

SAN DIEGO (AP) -- Reggie Taylor's second career grand slam helped Aaron Harang to his first National League victory as the Cincinnati Reds beat the San Diego Padres 9-5 on Saturday night. Diamondbacks Nip the Mets With a 2-1 Win. Dodgers Flatten Cubs 6-1 in 6th Straight. Mariners slide Past Yankees 2-1. Pirates Rough Up Rockies 10-4.

Oddly Enough:

Tokyo Temple Ceremony Honors Pinball Machines

TOKYO (Reuters) - Japanese pinball is fortunate, one of the few leisure industries lucky enough to defy the nation's economic slump and turn a profit even in the present tough times. So on Friday, those who make a living from pachinko, a game resembling pinball that enjoys huge popularity, gathered at a Tokyo temple to express gratitude to the clattering machines that make it all possible. In Friday's solemn ceremony, Buddhist monks in purple robes chanted sutras in front of a candle-lit, brocade-draped altar adorned with a golden replica of a pachinko machine. Executives from firms that make pachinko machines and parts for them offered incense before bowing their heads and praying to honor those machines that have come to the end of their working lives over the past year. "So many people play pachinko," said Hitoshi Osawa, an executive with leading pachinko machine maker Heiwa Corp. "We want to tell the machines, 'Thank you very much for all your hard work.'"

On This Day In History: *August 11th 1972*

The last U.S. ground combat unit in South Vietnam, the Third Battalion, Twenty-First Infantry, departs for the United States. The unit had been guarding the U.S. air base at Da Nang. This left only 43,500 advisors, airmen, and support troops left in-country. This number did not include the sailors of the Seventh Fleet on station in the South China Sea or the air force personnel in Thailand and Guam.